

City of Santa Barbara PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Minutes

<u>CALL TO ORDER</u>: Chair Longstreet called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Longstreet

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey
Business Manager Scott McGregor
Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Daniel Hochman Youth Intern Diego Torres-Santos

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Recognition of the Robert Funai - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Rose Garden Volunteer Coordinator Robert Funai for continued dedication to the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden and re-present him with the All-American Rose Society Bronze Medal.

AGENE	DA ITEM	5

Ms. Hetty Shurtleff, President of Santa Barbara Rose Society, re-presented Robert Funai with a Bronze Medal, the highest level award, for his dedication and commitment in coordinating rose garden volunteers at the City's rose garden.

The Commission recognized Mr. Funai's efforts and presented him with a certificate of appreciation thanking him for his dedication and commitment.

Mr. Funai expressed his appreciation to City Parks staff that gave him the opportunity to work for the Department and said he enjoys his work at the Rose Garden.

Ms. Rapp thanked Mr. Funai for his efforts on behalf of the community and the Parks and Recreation Department.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Youth Council and briefly talked about the 8th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet, where 29 teenagers from the South Coast received awards for doing good work. Commissioner Burns briefed that the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force meeting scheduled for May 6th was cancelled because of the Jesusita fire and has been rescheduled for July 1st. Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Arts and Crafts Show . He said the Advisory Committee is pleased that the Department is taking it under advisement that they want to have the skateboard park monitor working on Sundays because it helps the show. He said the Advisory Committee hopes the monitor remains. Commissioner Burns reported that the PARC Foundation is starting a membership drive.

Commissioner Longstreet reported that she also attended the 8th Annual Leadership Awards Banquet and reported that she attended the PARC Foundation meeting today.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Zachary provided a brief report on damage to City Parks and the front country trails caused by the Jesusita Fire. She said there was damage to Stevens Park, Laurel Canyon, a little damage to Skofield Park, and Rattlesnake Trail. Ms. Zachary said that in some ways the damage was not as significant as the damage to Parma Park caused by the TEA Fire. She said the damage to Stevens Park is north of the Foothill Bridge; there are burned trees and ash; the trails themselves are not in terrible condition, but staff are inspecting those areas and will need to do brushing work similar to that which was done in Parma Park, that have potential to impede the creek. Ms. Zachary indicated that staff is in coordinating with County Flood Control, as much of the burn area will enter drainages and enter into the City and a critical concern is how to mitigate potential erosion. She said there is time before the rainy season, but staff is starting to plan how to mitigate potential impacts. Ms. Zachary said regarding Laurel Canyon that vegetative fuels work was done prior to the fire, which helped. She said that a number of goats had to be moved from Skofield Park during the fire.

Regarding the front country trails, Ms. Zachary said there has been some confusion regarding what is open and what is closed. She said a press release went out today which clarifies that Tunnel Trail, Jesusita Trail, Tunnel Connector, and Rattlesnake Trail from Las Canoas to East Camino Ciello is closed. She said staff is working with The Forest Service and the County to conduct a Trail Hazard Assessment. Ms. Zachary said there is concerned about people going off trail; one of the key considerations is keeping people on trail even when there is vegetation, because unauthorized trails can lead to further erosion. She said these trails are closed for now and staff is working with the trails stakeholders to get the word out to everyone; all the trails are posted. Ms. Zachary said staff hopes to have a series of workdays in an attempt to remove hazards and look at ways to stabilize the trails. She said that in the area of Tunnel Road and Tunnel Trail, there is allot of fire recovery work underway; people are back in their homes and are trying to deal with their destroyed homes. Ms. Zachary said there are allot of trucks and heavy equipment in the area, and it is not a good place for people to be going to recreate until it is know how safe the areas is and hazards are minimized.

Ms. Zachary acknowledged that the San Marcos Foothill Preserve sustained allot of damage and said the City will be working closely with the County through sharing objectives for restoration of habitats.

Chair Longstreet said she is please that the trails are posted. She encouraged the user groups to work together.

Ms. Zachary commented that it is a challenge; the trails are easily accessible, people are accustomed to being there on a regular basis, and there is a natural curiosity when there is a disaster to go look and see what happened, and it is staff's objective in getting the word out to keep people out of these areas. She said there are other trails open: Romero, San Ysidro, the main stem of Cold Spring is open, and there are a myriad of County trails in the Montecito area open.

Chair Longstreet stated that the request to the public is to stay off the trails that are posted until they are safe and staff can establish a good resource recovery plan, and when they are on the trails, to stay on the actual trails.

Commissioner Burns commented that AYSO has approximately 3,000 children, 85% of which are under 10 years of age, and they are having difficulty finding practice fields. He said the season is mid-August to mid-November, and asked staff to look at what can be done help them. Commissioner Burns asked that this item be placed on the June agenda. Ms. Rapp said staff will come back to the Commission with a report on the current policy and practices. She stated that the current policy is that this activity is not allowed in the parks because several years ago it caused tremendous overuse and damage to the turf. Ms. Rapp said policies need to be revisited once in a while, and staff will bring back a report in June.

Chair Longstreet said she would be interested in the different age levels and what can be accommodated in different places.

Ms. Rapp talked about future agenda items. She said staff feels the need to reduce the number of Advisory Committees and asked the Commission how they would like to proceed with that discussion. Commissioner Burns commented that some do not meet on a regular basis, and may be disbanded before they meet. He suggested we start right away.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked for a complete proposal with all relevant data, including the number of seats, how many are full, etc. He said June would be appropriate.

Chair Longstreet concurred and asked for a staff perspective on how to involve the public if there were no advisory committees, specifically Active Adults.

Ms. Rapp said the Department has those concerns also and the committees will move away from being a Brown Act Committee to more of a program committee, similar to how the Adapted Advisory Committee works; it has representatives from people the department works with closely from other agencies with relative issues and program needs.

Chair Longstreet suggested that it might be better to do this in July because the budget will not be adopted before the June Commission meeting. Commissioner Conner concurred and also said she likes the idea of going with the Adapted Programs model, it is more of a collaborative working committee.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Hanna provided the Youth Council report. She said Youth Council will be interviewing for several vacancies tomorrow at 3:30 p.m. Ms. Hanna said the 8th Annual Youth Leadership Banquet was a wonderful event. She said the Youth Council has been invited to host the Teen Board Exchange, an exchange of City Teen and Youth Boards put on by the Southern California Teen Coalition, in August. She said approximately 15 other agencies will attend the annual conference in Santa Barbara.

Chair Longstreet said she is interested in hearing more about the Teen Board Exchange. Ms. Hanna indicated staff could provide more information at the August meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 2. <u>Summary of Council Actions For Information</u> There were no comments.
- 3. Approval of Minutes For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 22, 2009; and
- B. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 30, 2009.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 3/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of

the regular meeting of April 22, 2009, and the Special meeting of April 30, 2009.

Commissioner Conner abstained.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission deny the Setback Tree removal request for 3725 - 3729 Portofino Way - Wolfe & Associates, Property Services - Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 4.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

5. Proposed FY 2010 Parks and Recreation Department Budget - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recommend approval of the Proposed FY 2010 Parks and Recreation Operating Budget, Capital Improvement Budget, and Fees and Charges Schedule to the City Council.

Ms. Rapp indicated that the Commission is being asked to develop and make recommendations on the Parks and Recreation Department Operating Budget, Capital Improvement Budget, and the Fees and Charges Schedule to City Council.

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that four people were proposed to be laid off with the Proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget. She said that Billy Goodnick, Landscape Architect, has announced his retirement, and is looking forward to working as a private consultant. Ms. Rapp said that three employees, two who were scheduled for layoff and one parks staff member have interviewed and accepted jobs with the Public Works Department. She said that one individual who is scheduled for layoff has decided to stay on board as an hourly employee. Ms. Rapp said the Department is very pleased it worked out this way for these employees.

Chair Longstreet asked that Billy Goodnick come to Commission for recognition in June. Ms. Rapp said she would ask him to do that.

Ms. Rapp highlighted the Advisory Committee recommendations on the proposed budget.

Chair Longstreet asked for clarification regarding the Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee comment regarding monitors. She said their memorandum mentions the skateboard park monitor, and asked if that was in addition to the two show monitors. Ms. McCaffrey clarified saying that the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee did not address the one hourly Art Show Monitor that is not being scheduled on Sunday; that actually began in March. She said the comment in their memorandum related to the fact that skateboard park monitors on Sundays have been cut, and the members expressed concern about not having those monitors in the park on Sunday when a large portion of the show is set up around the skateboard park.

Chair Longstreet clarified that skateboard park monitors stay inside the skateboard park and do not monitor sidewalk skating. Ms. McCaffrey indicated that is correct.

Ms. Rapp highlighted the questions asked by Council and the staff responses.

Chair Longstreet commented that if the Capital Program is suspended, not only could it result in a layoff, it may result in the closure of parks, which is critical to impress upon City Council. She said Shoreline Park has to be fenced properly, playgrounds need to be repaired or closed; this is a must do list. Commissioner Conner concurred and said these are safety issues.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said Councilmember Horton has a point; this year might not be the year to take on a new project. Ms. Rapp said that there is a ten-year replacement schedule so the playgrounds stay up to code. She said that usually, the playground is replaced, and over that ten-year period, if there is an element in the playground that becomes unsafe, staff looks at either removing it or replacing it to keep the playground whole. Ms. Rapp said those are options for this year, and reminded the Commission that the Department already took budget reductions in the current year in the playground replacement program and has to be careful not to get too far behind.

Chair Longstreet suggested staff change the wording on the document to "replace" versus "new", because what the Department is really doing is replacing the playground.

Commissioner Burns commented that the Capital Program has already been cut, and what staff is proposing are bare necessities. He said he hopes Council does not look at this as a line item they can cut.

Chair Longstreet commented regarding the West Beach playground, that there will be no other wading pools; Oak Park will be closed for the summer, and there is no wading pool at Ortega Park. She said this is the only wading pool, and there needs to be a playground next to it.

Ms. Rapp discussed the Sunday Lap Swim Program at Los Baños. She said the cost to reinstate that program is \$4,420. She said staff met today with the President of the Friends of Los Baños and with Ms. Jones, Friends of Los Baños. Ms. Rapp said that

Ms. Jones has heralded an effort to fundraise both for the Sunday Lap Swim Program at Los Baños and the Recreation Swim Program at Ortega Park Pool. She said the Department is appreciative of their efforts and will work with them to the extent possible to fundraise to reinstate those two services. Ms. Rapp said it cannot be done without people like Ms. Jones who are willing to step forward and help fundraise during these difficult times. Ms. Rapp said they also discussed the possibility of working together on the Oak Park Wading Pool repair. She said the Department will see how things go with the Lap Swim Program at Los Baños and the Recreation Swim at Ortega Park Pool and then make that decision at a later time.

Chair Longstreet expressed appreciation to the Ms. Jones and the Friends of Los Baños for their willingness to take on the fundraising effort to support these programs, saying particularly that she is pleased they are considering the children's programs at Ortega Pool.

Ms. Rapp highlighted an opportunity to reduced General Fund revenue support to the Zoo, which could potentially provide a savings to the General Fund of \$52,774 in FY 2010, 2011, and 2012.

Ms. Rapp talked about an inquiry from Councilmember Falcone regarding the feasibility of shifting the costs associated with beach cleaning from the General Fund to Measure B. She said that from the inception of the Creek Restoration/Water Quality Improvement Program, the intent of Measure B funds has been to supplement rather than supplant existing City programs. Ms. Rapp indicated that staff discussed the proposal with the Creeks Advisory Committee, which while sympathetic to the City's current budget challenges, expressed concern about the proposal concluding that it would inappropriately violate the intent and purpose of Measure B and set a poor precedent for future funding decisions, and recommended it not be included in the Creeks Division Proposed Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. Ms. Rapp indicated that if this is an issue that Council wants to revisit in the future, we will need to revisit the policy the Creeks Advisory Committee has operated under the past several years.

Ms. Zachary highlighted the Urban Forestry Program Impacts.

Ms. Hanna talked about the specific impacts to Teen Programs as a result of merging Teen Programs and Community Services into the Neighborhood and Outreach Services. She provided an overview of the program changes and reviewed the proposed organizational chart for the proposed Neighborhood and Outreach Services Section.

Commissioner Conner commented that the plan is very well thought out, and many of the collaborations taking place in the community are moving in the neighborhood direction. She said she believes it is a positive way to go and is optimistic.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that this is an important direction we are moving in. He said it is always uncomfortable when there is a constituency that is nervous about being disempowered, but he thinks young people will not be disempowered through the process, but quite the opposite. Commissioner Larimore-

Hall said he is interested is hearing how the Youth Council discussion goes and what their specific concerns are. Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether moving from a schools-based system of representation to a neighborhood model is the crux of discomfort, and if so, why is that? He said the more specific the concerns raised, the easier it will be to tailor the specifics of this reorganization around it. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he is excited to be a part of the discussion.

Chair Longstreet commented that there was a Joint Advisory Committee and Commission meeting several years ago that included all the Community Center Advisory Committees and the Youth Council at the Franklin Center where Diego's mother brought up how more services were needed at the Community Centers. She said the message came through loud and clear from all Community Centers that there needed to be more site-based youth programming at the centers. Chair Longstreet said this change comes from the seeds of those requests. She said she has perceived both at the Council meeting and the Annual Awards Banquet, that one of the fears is that Ms. Young's job is in jeopardy. Chair Longstreet commented that is misinformation, and once that is quelled, things will calm down. She said she views this particular model as a way to preserve that position. She further said it will require staff to engage with each other in a whole new dynamic way. Chair Longstreet said she likes the idea of operating in both sides of the City in the Centers and maybe now the kids can come together. She thanked staff for bring this forward and hopes the Commission's commitment is heard because it comes from the community, young people, and the advisory committees.

Ms. Rapp commented that the model of a neighborhood-based program is the state of the art model that cities that are successfully improving outcomes for families and youth in underserved neighborhoods are implementing and making change are using. She said there are two driving factors for this change, the first is the Department had to cut staff and resources to meet the budget requirement, and secondly, the City's interest in moving forward the neighborhood concept to improve outcomes in our underserved neighborhoods, and that is the Department's primary focus, which means it may move away from some activities that have been broad in nature. Ms. Rapp said that is because staff needs to focus limited resources where we get the greatest impact in changing lives, which is the reason for moving forward with Neighborhood and Outreach Services.

Public Comment:

Barbara Newman talked about the importance swimming, regardless of age. She asked to keep as many pools, wading pools, etc as possible open.

Monica Jones, Board of Los Baños, spoke regarding the importance of keeping the Sunday swim open at Los Baños and Ortega. She said she would like the City to meet the Friends of Los Baños half way on the funding, but if not the Friends of Los Baños will attempt to raise the funds to keep Los Baños open and also the Ortega Park pool.

Commissioner Comments:

Chair Longstreet asked if the fundraising effort can come in at the last minute and if the Commission can support the community activities.

Ms. Rapp said she has encouraged Ms. Jones to talk about the priorities to the community and this is the venue to do that. She said it is difficult to make a change to the proposed budget, because it means looking at choosing a different thing to cut, but from other Council meetings, she knows other people in the community are also seeking consideration. Ms. Rapp said staff is pleased with how the meeting with the Friends of Los Baños went this morning, and the Friends of Los Baños have agreed to "front the money", to enter into a legally binding document with the City for fundraising, and staff will work with them any way possible to support that effort.

Ms. Rapp said that Ms. Jones in her comments asked that the Commission consider recommending restoring all or part of the funding for those programs, and that could be part of the Commission's discussion.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked if \$4,400 and \$8,600 is for Fiscal Year 2010. Ms. Rapp said yes.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he thinks that when a group of people adversely affected by cuts approach the Department wanting to work together in terms of bringing new revenue in or fundraising to save something that no one wants to cut, it does make sense to reward that kind of community organizing. He said he would vote for a proposal to restore a small amount of the funding scheduled to be cut for Fiscal Year 2010 for both of the swimming programs as a sign of good faith. He said in particular, since there are some possible cost savings to the General Fund; he thinks it would be appropriate.

Chair Longstreet said there are a couple issues: first, there may not be money in the budget to put in this year, but we welcome and want to work with the volunteer groups to strongly support that effort. Chair Longstreet said that is very much needed. She said the Friends of Los Baños may reinstate the Sunday Lap Swim and have an ongoing project that will help with Oak Park Wading Pool or Ortega Park Pool, and it is tremendous to have such a group. She said she would be willing to voice strong support of the partnership between the Department and the Friends of Los Baños.

Ms. Rapp said the Department could possibly assist in some other way with the fundraising in the future.

Chair Longstreet asked if they can advertise on City TV. Ms. Rapp said they could partner with us to make that happen.

Commission Recommendations:

Chair Longstreet expressed concern about the Department facilities, about what the Department maintains, and why it is important to keep maintaining what the Department is in charge of. She said that the Commission has talked about the condition of the infrastructure, but needs to take the lead. Chair Longstreet said that as futile as it is right now without money, this is the time to lay the ground work to keep facilities up and running. Chair Longstreet further said that the Department needs to have the plans in place to be ready to move when the money is available. She expressed the need to prioritize this effort.

Chair Longstreet said she feels strongly about the loss of staff and hourly staff. She said hourly staff is very important, and she is very concerned about losing those positions.

Chair Longstreet stated regarding the bargaining groups that if there are concessions made within the bargaining groups, the savings should stay within the bargaining groups and be directed at the areas where people have given back so much, to preserve jobs in those areas.

Chair Longstreet concurs strongly with the Creeks recommendation regarding beach cleanup. She said that is a strategy that should have been looked at well in advance. Chair Longstreet further stated that she does not believe it is appropriate to use Measure B funds for beach cleanup. She said she believes it should be paid for by beach users, and beach users pay parking fees, and that is where the money should come from.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall stated that staff has done an amazing job that mitigates a lot of really painful cuts. He commented that the big political decisions need to be made by Council. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that he does not like Enterprise Funds as a way of organizing the City, nor is he a fan of micro-targeted revenue streams. He said he agrees with the Creeks Advisory Committee, saying that if a tax is put to the voters to pay for something specifically to achieve a community goal, then they have to be very careful about changing the game after the revenue starts to come in. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he does not have any problem using Measure B funds to supplement already existing City expenditures, his problem is that the funds are for Clean Water and the Creeks Program. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that the City needs to make sure that we are not re-enforcing inefficiencies in the way money is managed in the City, such that for political expediency, people that should be paying for a service that they use are not paying for it.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he fully supports all of the suggestions for moving some of these responsibilities or liabilities that our Department is picking up.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed gratitude to the Zoo for their cooperation.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall stressed that it is really bad that City employees are putting concessions on the table and for no apparent reason, the City at this point does not seem willing to be flexible enough that those concessions preserve jobs and stave off layoffs. He said that is a problem, because he knows what kinds of amazing work employees in this Department do.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that the City has to rob Peter to pay Paul, but asked that it not go back on mandates from the voters.

Commissioner Conner agreed with Chair Longstreet's and Commissioner Larimore-Hall's comments. She said she is concerned with the issue of safety. Commissioner Conner said that park maintenance needs to be addressed and expressed concern over not trimming trees for a year. She said that budget has been stretched over the years, and she is sad. Commissioner Conner stated that the City's parks are beautiful gems and need to be preserved.

Commissioner Conner expressed appreciation to staff and the amount of people wanting to help.

Commissioner Conner said she is pleased about the merger of Teen Programs and Community Services. She said she knows each of the people who will be in the Neighborhood and Outreach Services and that each one of them cares deeply about youth, and she is hopeful that their true intention for making Santa Barbara a better community will come through.

Commissioner Burns expressed appreciation for the Friends of Los Baños and said he would like to keep Sunday Lap Swim at Los Baños and Recreation Swim at Ortega Pool open.

Commissioner Burns stated that Beach Cleaning was originally proposed to be shifted to the Waterfront Department and wants to stress to City Council that should be done.

Commissioner Burns said he is amazed that for the amount of cuts many people were not upset.

Chair Longstreet stressed that she wants the budget respected as it stands; it works because all the pieces fit together and if picked apart, things will not work as well. She said there are many reasons staff reached these recommendations, and it cannot be reworked from dias.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 4/0 to recommend approval of the Proposed FY 2010 Parks and Recreation Operating Budget, Capital Improvement Budget, and Fees and Charges Schedule to the City Council.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 4/0 that the Commission revisit funding for Ortega Pool Recreational Swim Program in three to four months, at which time the Commission would like a presentation from staff regarding the funding efforts of the Friends of Los Baños, and further that the Commission direct staff to work immediately with Friends of Los Baños, if the funds become available, to reinstate swim this summer.

6. <u>Proposed Charter Amendment to Consolidate the Board of Park Commissioners and Recreation Commission into the Parks and Recreation Commission – For Action</u>

Recommendation: That the Commission review a proposed amendment to the City Charter and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the proposed number of members, the inclusion of a youth member, and the powers and duties of the proposed Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Rapp provided a brief background on this item. Ms. Rapp reviewed the proposed changes to Section 809 of the City Charter, and said that proposed changes will be placed on the November 3, 2009, election ballot.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked if it is possible to leave the number of Commissioners open, for example, that the Commission be composed of up to seven members or between five and seven members. He reminded staff that the Commission did not have a consensus on that issue when they took action on it at the March 2009 meeting. Commissioner Larimore-Hall suggested that it is a very appropriate solution to the issue of a youth voting member to leave the option on the table as far as the Charter goes; he asked if it was possible in terms of the size of the Commission. Ms. Rapp said staff asked the City Attorney whether that was possible, and noted that City Council leaned toward seven members if a youth member was added. She further said the City Attorney said it could be written for either five or seven, but he recommended against it because it would be very uncommon and would not have the clarity he feels something in the City Charter should have. Ms. Rapp stated that given that City Charter changes occur infrequently due to the fact that they have to be placed on the election ballot, the City Attorney recommended the Commission make the decision between five or seven; however, it could, in fact, be written the way Mr. Larimore-Hall was asking.

Commissioner Burns asked about the current requirement of the City Charter that Commissioners be a "qualified elector" of the City and a City resident. Ms. Rapp said the Charter proposal would allow for the youth member, and then by Resolution, the City Council would adopt criteria and policies. Ms. Rapp said that change would be reflected in the Resolution, and there would be an elector exception for the Park and Recreation Commission youth member. She said those items are still issues, but they would be addressed in the formation of the Resolution.

Ms. Hanna said that if the residents of the community vote to approve the Charter amendment as written and proposed, then a 16-year-old could be appointed to the Commission, then it would go back to City Council and the Resolution would be written.

Ms. Rapp said staff would come back to the Commission and the Youth Council for recommendations regarding the Resolution.

Chair Longstreet commented that she thinks the information is general enough to be in the Charter and allows for Council to make adjustments, if needed. She agreed it would be appropriate for the youth member to be a City resident because the charter is to serve the residents of the City of Santa Barbara. Chair Longstreet said she is happy with the draft Charter language.

Commissioner Conner concurred with Chair Longstreet.

Commissioner Burns stated he would be happier with five Commissioners not discounting the Youth vote. He said he does not know that having a youth intern and seven commissioners would make a better Commission. Commissioner Burns said he agrees with combining the Commissions, but thinks the membership should remain at five.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he wants there to be a voting youth member on the Commission, and fears that if the number stays at five, that will never happen. He said he is not in the abstract for seven. He simply is concerned that the political will won't allow a youth vote with a smaller commission. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he would support changing the language in the Charter amendment to "either five or seven members", which would provide flexibility.

Chair Longstreet expressed concern that by nature, the youth interns are moving on, and it is likely there will be a certain level of turn over, and if the Commission membership stays at five, they would be short much of the time. She said she fears that there would be only three members at meetings much of the time, and that is not enough people to do the business of the Parks and Recreation Department. Chair Longstreet commented that she has served on the Commission when there have been seven members, and you get more opinion, and that is not a bad thing. She further said the Commission lacks expertise in the areas of parks, horticulture, adapted, etc. Chair Longstreet said it would benefit the Commission to have that.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/1 to support the proposed amendment to the City Charter as it stands.

Commission Burns was opposed.

Commissioner Burns said he wants it to be noted at City Council that not all the Commissioners were in favor of increasing the membership of the Commission to seven members.

Commissioner Conner commented that it was her idea to change the membership of the Commission to seven members when she was Chair.

NEW BUSINESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

<u>Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada</u> <u>Conner, and passed 4/0 to adjourn.</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp Parks and Recreation Director